

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 30, 2010

The Honorable Lawrence Strickling, Assistant Secretary and Administrator
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
HCHB, Room 4887
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling,

As members of the California Congressional Delegation, we are writing to express our concern about the lack of grants awarded to California under the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) created as part of the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act* (ARRA).

In the first round of BTOP awards, entities in California received only a few modest broadband infrastructure grants. California applicants have submitted 114 Broadband ARRA applications for the second round of BTOP awards. All of these applications will support California's economy, particularly in urban underserved and rural and tribal areas. Thirty-eight of the 114 applications are broadband infrastructure projects that connect key community anchor institutions, such as schools, libraries, public safety first responders, health care facilities and local governmental offices.

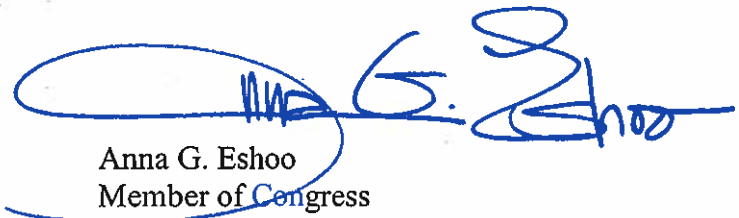
Given the importance of broadband investment to economic development in California, we were disappointed to see NTIA's July 2nd announcement that in the first phase of grants awarded in Round 2 of BTOP funding, not one grant was awarded to a California-only project.

California is a large state with many geographic and terrain challenges – desert, mountains, and coastal terrain -- for our broadband providers. We believe methodology being used to make these grants to the states and territories is fair and equitable. While California is more advanced in broadband initiatives than most states, we urge you to carefully consider each California BTOP application moving forward.

Sincerely,



Doris Matsui
Member of Congress


Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress